

## TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Joseph Connelly  
Director of Recreation



PARK COMMISSIONERS  
Leslie Mayer, Chairperson  
Jen Rothenberg, Vice Chair  
Shirley Canniff  
Donald Vitters  
Jim Robillard  
Elena Bartholomew, Associate  
Peter Hedlund, Associate

### Recreation Department

Park and Recreation Commission  
Minutes  
Tuesday, September 23, 2014  
Arlington Senior Center  
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM in the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, September 23, 2014.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Don Vitters, Jen Rothenberg, Shirley Canniff, Jim Robillard, and Associate Member Elena Bartholomew. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation, Joseph Connelly.

Members from the public: Tony Vogel, Christian Klein, Elaine Backman, Roly Chaput, John Flaherty and one other guest, who did not sign in.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the July 29, 2014 were tabled.

The minutes of September 9, 2014 were approved as amended on a motion from Ms. Canniff and seconded by Mr. Vitters, minutes approved 3-0-2. Mr. Robillard and Ms. Mayer abstained from voting because they were not present at the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting

#### **Open Forum – Public Comments**

There were no comments.

#### **Robbins Dog Statue Public Input**

Mr. Connelly reviewed the previous meeting with representatives from the Friends of Robbins Farm Park regarding their proposal and introduced Tony Vogel, president of FoRFP.

Mr. Vogel reviewed the Friends proposal to install a recreation of the historical dog statue and granite seating blocks at the four corners of the former farmhouse foundation. Mr. Connelly discussed the issues of ADA compliance, project cost and budget. The Commission discussed the need for accessibility to the viewing area and seating area with the Friends expressing concern about the effect on project cost. Mr. Connelly stated that he would set up a meeting with Leonard Design Associates to review options. Mr. Vogel requested that the Friends be involved in that meeting. Mr. Connelly and the Commission discussed possible funding options.

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Mr. Flaherty stated that he appreciated being notified about the meeting, the work the Friends of Robbins have done at the park and the Commission for all of their work but simply asked that the man, Nathan Robbins, be remembered. Mr. Flaherty suggested having a statue of the man rather than the dog.

The Commission discussed project timing with Mr. Chaput and the Friends. Mr. Chaput believes that they may have lost their current window with the model sculpture, which the copy is being made from, to have an installation at Robbins this winter/spring. Mr. Connelly suggested that we continue to gather information on design and pricing and continue to evaluate the proposal, so that it can move forward as quickly as possible.

Ms. Mayer reminded the Commission that a permanent art policy is still needed by the Commission. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the concept with the final design to be determined pending additional information with the understanding that in the final design the site would be ADA accessible. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 5-0.

### Spy Pond Swan Update

Mr. Connelly updated the Commission on the Swan sculpture approved for Spy Pond. It was installed and then was vandalized by being rolled to the water's edge. Mr. Connelly stated that he met the artist, Kevin Duffy, at the park and they identified an alternate location that may provide better security and less attraction for vandalism. Mr. Connelly reviewed with the Commission the new location and installation system, which would include a small concrete pad and pins.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the new location and installation procedure, with the condition that the current area is returned to its original state. Motion was seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

### Commission FY 15 Goals Review

Ms. Mayer asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the draft goals. Commissioners indicated that they have reviewed them and no additional changes were offered. Ms. Canniff motioned to approve the FY 15 goals, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 5-0. The Commission discussed how to proceed with working on the goals, and asked Mr. Connelly to invite the Director of DPW, Mr. Rademacher, to the October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### Capital Projects Update

Mr. Connelly reviewed the status of outstanding items for the capital projects at North Union, Hibbert and Florence. Mr. Connelly stated that there will be a public hearing on the ADA draft report on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> and it was agreed that comments would be accepted until the end of October. Also, there will be a public input meeting on the renovation of the Spy Pond Tennis Courts on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

Ms. Rothenberg asked about the skateboard park. Mr. Connelly stated that he is working with Skatewaves on an updated proposal that he can share with Converse to help solicit a possible donation for the park.

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#### **Commission Topic Leader Reports**

Ms. Mayer asked that each Commissioner and Associate Commissioner send Mr. Connelly the top two or three topic leader items that they would be interested in working on.

#### **Other**

Mr. Vitters asked about the missing benches at Spy Pond Park. Mr. Connelly explained that one was damaged in the storm and the other was being replaced by a private party. Mr. Connelly will continue to work with the private donor on replacement of the Caldwell bench.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm

Respectfully Submitted:  
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation